





**LOCAL DEPARTMENT.**

**FESTIVAL.**—The Ladies of the Ger. M. Church are making large preparations for Strawberry Festival, in Sheds & Euclid Hall, to commence next Thursday evening, to continue on Friday and Saturday evening, the proceeds to pay for the excellent Melodist now in use in the Church. Besides an abundance of Strawberries, there will be many other good things—a lunch, we hope, every evening. All who go will have a pleasant time and get the worth of their money. Will not everybody be there?

**Festival also on Saturday afternoon.**

**FIRE.**—We learn, with much regret, of Mr. Samuel Bricker, formerly of this county, met with a severe loss by fire on the night of the 1st instant. He has, for several years been raising one of the plantations of Samuel Ebbelen, near Uniontown. Carroll & M., and by his industry and good management, was "getting along well in the world." But on the night alluded, or rather in the morning between 2 and 3 o'clock, the farm was aroused, only to find the house enveloped in flames. There was no time to save anything, the family barely escaping in their night clothes. The building and contents were almost totally consumed. The greatest efforts were required to prevent the barn from burning. Mr. Bricker's loss (in furniture, clothing, &c.) is probably a thousand dollars, on which he has no insurance. He has the sympathy of his many old friends in this county. The cause of the fire is not known.

**The Ladies' Relief Association of Gettysburg, a week or ten days ago, sent a box of delicacies to the sick and wounded soldiers of the York Hospital, which has been gladly received and politely acknowledged by the Commandant, as follows:**

**U. S. A. GEN. HOSPITAL,**  
York, Pa., June 1, 1863.

Mrs. P. *Dear Sir*—Your letter has just come to hand. The box of delicacies on Friday. Some of the articles have already been distributed to the hearts of our soldiers in the Hospital. I design yet, to-day, to make a special application of some of the good things to several of our sick boys. Your kindness is duly appreciated, and I will endeavor to recognize their ready and deserving efforts.

Please present our thanks to the donors, with Christian regard, I am, &c.,

**J. A. BROWN, Chaplain.**

**There will be divine services in United Presbyterian (144th) Church on Sabbath, the 2nd inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M., and the Church in Gettysburg at 3 o'clock, P. M.**

**The commencement of Mount St. Mary's College, near Elsin (Germ. Md., 41) is held**

Wednesday, the 24th instant, on which occasion the Rev. George M. Buckley, of Newburgh Church, New York, will deliver the oration before the Philanthropic Union in the Catholic Church.

Mr. Aaron Steely, of Monmouth township, recently elected School Superintendent of this county, has received his commission and today enters upon the discharge of his duties. Knowing Mr. Steely as we do, we predict that he will make a most creditable one.

JOSEPH B. JACOBI, Broker of Valuable Real Estate in the City and County of New York, at Stuyvesant's old corner, 81 Broadway, between 10th and 11th streets.

His advertisement.

**NEW YORK POLITICS.**

The Democratic State Central Convention met at Albany, N. Y., on the 24th inst. There was a full attendance. The first business being the declaration of the State Convention in support of the course of the government to suppress the rebellion. They declare that with necessary exceptions it is the duty of the State to suppress the rebellion, and that the restoration of the Union under the Constitution is the great end to which the State is not only now entitled, but has a right to demand, and it has shown its ability to do so, success in war and its own strength.

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to and Greeley. Every act almost that Abolitionists have demanded, they have obtained, and will continue to obtain. We leave the reader to judge for himself, whether the Administration is Abolition or not.—*The Observer.*

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**The Conscription.**—The enrollment preparatory to the Conscription is going on in this country. It was first finished up in New York. "It is likely the draft will be made before the middle of July." Attorney General Bates has prepared an opinion in which, it is said, is accepted by the Department, that the law of Congress regarding the payment of three hundred dollars for exemption from military draft is not mandatory, and that this sum, and no less must be fixed in all such cases.

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**Free Speech.**—Extract from a speech delivered by Hon. A. G. Ritchie, a leading member of Congress from Ohio, in February last:

"The freedom of speech is the last free choice a free people will surrender, and millions will exercise it in the midst of matter what calamities. They will die before they will surrender a fragment of the war it is their war, and the humbold of it has an interest in it equal to that of the first citizen, and they must and may discuss his (the President's) acts with a free and manly ken."

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**The Right of Free Speech.**—Judge Parker

speed, delivered a short time ago before the National Club of Sales, Massachusetts and which has just been published in pamphlet form, says of the right of free speech, that "it far surpasses in importance every other question of suppressing the rebellion. Without this privilege, there can be no civil rights whatever. The Government, call it by what name you will, is a tyranny, and the people are slaves."

A Pascagoula despatch says General Sherman had his leg amputated at New Orleans, and has since returned to New Orleans.

Refugees report that Vallandigham has been imprisoned by the rebels.

Rebels, papers say, it is understood that Vallandigham has proceeded to some Southern port, on route for Nassau, N.

✶ The Albany Argus says that John Cochran, before going up to attend the League meeting at Utica, visited a Democratic Association meeting at the Tivoli in New York, and after renewing his vows of attachment to the Democratic party, boldly asserted that if the General Government persisted in its arbitrary arrests, it should be resisted by force.

**Read Senator Trumbull's speech.**

9.—There was an explosion at Fort Lyon which is about two miles from Alexandria this afternoon, between two and three o'clock. It appears that at that time the men attached to the Third New York Independent Battalion were engaged in examining artillery ammunition at the open door of the north magazine, when for some cause, one shell exploded, followed by a few others, and then the magazine itself. No damage, however, was done to the guns or gun carriages. About twenty men were killed, and quite as many wounded who have been removed to hospitals in Alexandria.

turned to their homes, subject, however, to the call of the commanding general.

**250** A reconnoissance in force was made across the Rappahannock on Friday near Deep Run, one mile below Fredericksburg. Some sharp skirmishing occurred, both sides losing some killed and wounded, and thirty or forty Confederates taken prisoners. The Confederates under General Longstreet still hold the town and show a strong front at the upper ford. It is believed that a large portion of their force have moved in the direction of Gordonsville.

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